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Waters of the U.S. Engagement

Over the coming weeks, EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers will be engaging with state, tribal, and local governments as well as other stakeholders on the proposed rule for the revised definition of Waters of the U.S. Today, Acting Administrator Wheeler and Army Assistant Secretary James are sending letters to governors detailing some opportunities for state engagement, including a February 26rd states meeting and February 27-28 public hearing in Kansas City, Kansas, a March 11th states meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, a March 26th states meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, *and a just-confirmed additional state meeting April 3rd in Seattle, Washington.* Other state and local engagements are described below. On December 11, 2018, EPA and the Department of the Army signed a proposed rule to clarify federal authority under the Clean Water Act, which was the second step in a two-part process to review and revise the definition of WOTUS consistent with the February 2017 Presidential Executive Order entitled "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the Waters of the United States Rule." The proposed definition would replace the approach of the 2015 rule and pre-2015 regulations. The proposed rule was published February 14, 2019 and the comment period is open until April 15, 2019.

EPA Meeting with Morro Bay, CA Local Officials

Mayor John Headding will lead a delegation of city officials in a meeting on Monday, March 4 with OIR, the Office of Water, and Region IX to discuss Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility Project. The project replaces the old water treatment plant and will also provide the City with a locally sustainable water supply. (*Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon*)

EPA Meeting with City of Laredo, TX

On Wednesday, March 6, per a request from Representative Henry Cuellar (TX-28) EPA Headquarters and Region VI staff will meet with Laredo local officials to discuss the City's Priority Policy Agenda for 2019. The officials appreciate EPA's continuing support and partnerships in addressing environmental infrastructure and other needs along the US/Mexico Border. The city continues to work closely with EPA on a number of priorities, including successfully implementing programs made possible with support from US/Mexico Border

Program grants. Successes have been realized in waste collection and recycling programs, as well as Brownfields projects. They are looking forward to this annual meeting and the always productive dialogue. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with City of Newport Beach, CA

On Thursday, March 7, Councilmembers and Public Works Officials will meet with EPA to discuss the city's Lower Bay Dredging Project and relevant Clean Water Act requirements. OIR is working with OW on this request. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with Tucson (AZ) Water Officials

On Monday, March 11, EPA will meet with Tucson Water officials to discuss the Agency's PFAS Action Plan and future consideration as it relates to action taken in the City. PFCs have been detected in wells located in the northwest part of Tucson. These wells serve the non-potable reclaimed water system, wells down-gradient from Davis Monthan Air Force Base, and within the TARP facility. Tucson Water has deployed a range of strategies to ensure that this water is not delivered to customers. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with Wilmington, NC Local Officials

On Monday, March 11, per a request to EPA from Congressman David Rouzer (NC-7), Mayor Bill Saffo and members of his City Council, along with possibly other mayors from the Wilmington region, will meet with headquarters and Region IV staff to seek an understanding of the EPA decision-making process related to enforceable drinking water standards for water PFOA/PFAS. Area County officials are being invited to join the meeting by telephone. The Mayor and other local officials from the region, appreciate the continuing partnership between EPA, the State of North Carolina, and their areas on the broader issue of EPA's process for identifying Public Health Concern for Emerging Contaminants, and, specifically, efforts to address issues related to GenX and other emerging contaminants identified in the Cape Fear River that may pose human health risks. Mayors Saffo, Mayor Pro Tem Margaret Haynes, and members of the City Council met with headquarters in March 2018. Several County Executives joined that meeting by telephone. Region IV has also, in collaboration with the State, led continuing dialogue with Mayor Saffo and other local elected officials in GenX- impacted areas. EPA concluded its 2018 PFAS community engagement last August in Fayetteville, NC, and the Regional Administrator heard from Cape Fear River representatives that communities across the state are extremely concerned about the impacts of PFAS contamination on their health and their environment. This event was followed the next day by a meeting with Mayor Saffo and others in Wilmington. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

NLC to Convene Congressional City Conference

The National League of Cities will convene its Annual Congressional City Conference (CCC) in Washington, DC March 10 – 13. OIR is managing EPA's participation in the conference and the number of opportunities for meaningful engagement as over 2,500 local officials gather for Policy Committees Meetings, Workshops, and Plenary Sessions. Resolutions and changes to the National Municipal Policy are not considered during the CCC. Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, (Gary, IN) NLC President and member of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), will preside over the conference. NLC's First Vice President is Councilmember Joe Buscaino (Los Angeles, CA). Councilmember Kathy Maness (Lexington, KY) serves as Second Vice President. Immediate Past President, Mayor Mark Stodola (Little Rock AR) rounds out the leadership and is also a member of the LGAC.

EPA has been invited to participate in the following key events:

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Meeting/Sunday, March 10. *Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water*, will provide updates on the EPA's work on PFAS, a top

priority for the Committee. EPA has also been invited to address the Committee on the America Recycles Day Initiative and discuss how NLC might engage more directly in this effort by either signing onto the Pledge or participating in workgroups. ***OIR is working with OLEM to finalize EPA's participation.*** Committee leadership: Councilmember Hattie Portis-Jones (Fairburn, GA), Chair; Mayor Pro Tem Gerry Horak (Ft. Collins, CO), Vice Chair; Mayor T J Cawley (Morrisville, NC), Vice Chair.

Workshop – Holistically Managing Water Infrastructure/Monday, March 11. EPA is invited to discuss Integrated Planning, including federal legislation that was passed last year, and financing options for water infrastructure. ***Sonia Brubaker, Director, Water Infrastructure & Resiliency Finance Center, will participate in the Workshop. Anita Thompkins, Director, Drinking Water Protection Division, OGWDW, will attend and be available for any questions relevant to Drinking Water Infrastructure financing.***

Federal Agency Round Robin/Tuesday, March 12. This lively, fun, and informative session is open to all Conference Attendees and is a chance for them to hear directly from federal agencies through facilitated small group discussions with Administration officials and their fellow local elected leaders through a series of 20-minute rotations per their interests. EPA is asked to staff two tables: stormwater management/green infrastructure, and, brownfields redevelopment. ***Ann Carroll and Elyse Sutkus, Office of Brownfields & Land Revitalization, will staff the Brownfields Redevelopment table. Jamie Piziali and Greg Schaner, Green Infrastructure Program, Office of Wastewater Management (OW), will staff the Stormwater Management/Green Infrastructure table.***

Youth Program – Federal Agency Round Robin (NEW)/Tuesday, March 12. Added this year, NLC is providing the youth delegates with an opportunity to engage with the federal agencies as well. Rather than being focused on resource/grants etc., it is more about the federal agency sharing general information about a topic. Or it could be career focused on a field (NOT a job fair). The interest here is to have someone perhaps from Environmental Education who can speak to a broad array of topics of possible interest to youth, perhaps talk some about career paths at EPA, or just generally about EPA's Environmental Education programs or any other programs aimed at Youth and their communities. ***OIR is working with OPEEE to confirm EPA's representative.***

OIR staff will continue to update on EPA's participation in the conference as EPA presenters are confirmed. (Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)

EPA to Meet with City of Chino, CA

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Haughey and Public Works Director Amer Jakher will meet with EPA on Wednesday, March 13 to discuss the City's interest in funding support to expand its Water Treatment Facility as well as its wellhead treatment efforts. Approximately one-half of the city's total potable water supply is derived from water produced by City-owned and operated groundwater wells which produce water from the Chino Groundwater Basin. Water quality in the Chino Groundwater Basin, particularly the southwestern portion of the Basin, is impacted by nitrate, perchlorate, and 1, 2, 3 TCP concentrations which exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The Office of Water and Region IX will join OIR for the meeting. (Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)

EPA to Meet with Sunnyvale, CA Local Officials

Region IX, the Office of Air and Radiation, and the Office of Water will join OIR in a Wednesday, March 13 meeting with Vice Mayor Russ Melton and two of his Councilmembers to discuss several topics of concern: (1) The Proposed Green New Deal Federal Legislation; (2) Carbon Emissions Standards for New Coal-Fired Power Plants; (3) Federal CAFÉ Standards; and, (4) the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. The city officials look forward to the dialogue. (Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)

Mayors Water Council to Convene in Columbus, OH

The US Conference of Mayors' Mayors Water Council will meet March 28 -29 to discuss priority policy issues of concern to the communities they represent. Mayors Jill Techel (Napa, CA) and David J. Berger (Lima, OH) are Council Co-Chairs. The mayors invited Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, Andrew

Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, and Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp to participate in a policy discussion with mayors and invitees from the Ohio EPA on implementation of the Integrated Planning and Permitting Program on March 29. **Andrew Sawyers will participate in the discussion.** Lee Forsgren is unable to participate in the session due to travel conflicts. Confirmation of participation by Regional Administrator Stepp remains pending. The invitation was extended in connection with the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (HR 7279) that was signed into law on January 14, 2019, and interest from mayors around the nation in how Regional EPA and delegated State water permitting programs will respond to the new law. The Council appreciates the continuing work with EPA on USCM policies addressing Integrated Planning and Permitting, Green Infrastructure promotion, and modified Financial Capability assessment. In the invitation letter, Co-Chairs Techel and Berger noted that USCM member mayors look forward to continuing this engagement so the spirit of flexibility that they believe motivated Congress to adopt HR 7279 by overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support can be maintained. OIR will continue to work with the Office of Water and Region V on how EPA can support the meeting. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

International Municipal Lawyers Association Convening in Washington DC

IMLA, the Association of Local Government Attorneys, will convene March 29 – 30. The seminar attracts some 350 local government attorneys from around the country. The Association has invited EPA's Office of Water to join a panel to discuss and provide updates on the new WOTUS Rule/Options, on either Friday or Saturday. OIR will continue to work with OW on this request, appropriate guidance, and finalizing EPA's response. *(Contacts: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon and Andrew Hanson)*

EPA Meeting with Los Angeles County Sanitation District

On Wednesday, February 27, OCIR and OW State Revolving Fund and WIFIA management and staff met with a representative of the Los Angeles County (CA) Sanitation District to discuss three projects currently underway that have State Revolving Fund loan applications pending. The projects, which include a joint water pollution control outfall tunnel in Carson, ultraviolet disinfection facilities at the Valencia and Saugus plants, and an advanced water treatment facility for chloride in Santa Clarita, total roughly \$700 million in cost, are already under contract, and – in at least two instances -- construction has begun. The District is particularly concerned about their prospects for project funding since the January 31, 2019 issuance of Executive Order 13858, entitled "Strengthening Buy--American Preferences for Infrastructure Projects" which – among other things – requires application of the Order's principles in Federal procurement/acquisition and grant awards. Office of Water finance and Office of the Chief Financial Officer staff are currently performing a "section by section, line by line" analysis of the Order to identify/define key terms and provisions as well as their applicability to "ongoing/in-progress" as well as future projects. The District has been invited to submit a full application under the WIFIA for one of the projects, but – as with the SRF – the Order's ultimate impacts on WIFIA awards has yet to be determined. In the specific case of LACSD, at least two of the three projects likely will be unaffected by the Order as they – as noted above – are well underway. *(Contacts: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon and Andrew Hanson)*

WOTUS Briefing and Discussion at NACo Headquarters

On Friday, March 1, Office of Water management (McDonough, Eisenberg) and Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds staff will meet with county representatives from across the nation at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Headquarters, 660 North Capitol, NW, Washington, DC. NACo and its members have been extremely interested in the development of the recently proposed revisions to the definition of Waters of the United States, and are eager to present their concerns "firsthand" to EPA leadership while they are in town for their Annual Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers management will be present at the session as well, which is expected to cover the full range of issues that have been raised by

county representatives during the course of the current proposal's development, as well as during the brief implementation phase of the 2015 rule which preceded it. *(Contact: Andrew Hanson)*

EPA DAA Discussion with NACo Committee

On Saturday, March 2, EPA Office of Water Deputy Assistant Administrator Lee Forsgren will address the National Association of Counties' Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee (EELU) as part of NACo's Annual Legislative Conference, being held March 2 – 6, 2019, at the Washington Hilton. Forsgren will discuss both long-term and recently-initiated water-related activities of national interest, including the recent proposal to revise the definition of Waters of the United States, the agency's multi-faceted PFAS Action Plan, and other program priorities. Co-panelists for the session include the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (TBD), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff (John Kane), and energy and environment association representatives (Assoc. of State Floodplain Managers, Nat'l Assoc of Flood and Stormwater Mgt Agencies, Solid Waste Assoc of North America, Clean Energy and Technology Center, National Council for Science and Environment, and the Natural Resources Defense Council - Anna Weber). Resolutions put forth for consideration/debate by the EELU committee and potential ratification by the full membership include:

1 – Proposed Resolution to Improve Cost-Benefit Analysis for Federal Flood Control Projects (Hon. Zach Friend, Santa Cruz County, CA)

2 – Proposed Resolution on Compensatory Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Programs (Hon. Gary Moore, Boone County, KY)

3 – Proposed Resolution on Supporting Non-Competitive Rural Water Projects (Hon. Jesse Thompson, Navajo County, AZ)

4 – Proposed Resolution Supporting the Development of New U.S. Natural Resource Export Facilities (Hon. Richard Dunbar, Phillips County, MT)

Several counties will be bringing delegations to EPA headquarters to meet with program staff during the weeks prior to and following the conference.

Meeting with Santa Cruz County, Arizona, Representatives

On Monday, March 4, representatives from Santa Cruz County, Arizona, will meet with staff from EPA's Office of Wastewater Management and EPA Region 9 to discuss the county's challenges stemming from the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), a facility which straddles the U.S. border between the sister cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora (Mexico), and the Nogales Wash, a 94 square mile watershed which contains the IOI. The region has a long history of transboundary wastewater problems, with raw sewage flowing north into the U.S. and exposing residents of both cities to public health hazards. The Nogales Wash Channel, a 1930s-era concrete conveyance, was recently assessed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as having components that are compromised as well as being in dire need of expansion, and the IOI -- which was placed into operation in 1972 -- has eroded and has developed numerous cracks. Although most of the Mexican sewage is now collected and treated, the combination of aging pipelines and extreme topographic and climatic conditions continues to put Nogales, AZ, at risk. To address the binational problems, EPA, the City of Nogales, and Mexican Federal, state and local agencies have funded a series of projects to plan, design and construct drinking water and wastewater infrastructure for the area. The officials from Santa Cruz County, visiting DC to participate in the National Association of Counties' 2019 Legislative Conference, will take this opportunity to meet with EPA program and Regional staff in order to explore potential funding avenues to support these projects, provide an update on progress/activities since last year's discussion, and -- in particular -- to reestablish working relationships with EPA personnel in the Region. *(Contact: Andrew Hanson)*

Meeting with San Bernardino County Supervisor

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019, OCIR and OAR will co-host a meeting with San Bernardino County (CA) Supervisor Janice Rutherford to discuss EPA's Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI) and its attendant proposal for a new lower Nox emission standard for heavy duty trucks. The County believes that the proposed rulemaking constitutes a critical step toward meeting the more stringent 70 parts per billion ozone standard announced by EPA in 2015, and the supervisor wants to discuss balancing and improving their local economy – which includes San Bernardino County's goods movement sector, with regulatory and permitting reforms. The county is also interested in pursuing other potential areas of cooperation and collaboration, including incentives to turn over the fleet more quickly, as well as legislative and/or regulatory actions that could potentially improve the business climate and the region's competitiveness while ensuring environmental and public health protection. The supervisor would also be interested in any updates from OAR's State and Local Climate program on potential partnerships to support the efforts of local communities. *(Contacts: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon and Andrew Hanson)*

Meeting with Marion County (OR) Officials

On Tuesday March 5, 2019, OCIR and OLEM will co-host a meeting with Marion County, OR, Commissioners Kevin Cameron and Colm Willis to discuss the Brownfields program. Marion County submitted an (ultimately) unsuccessful Community-Wide Assessment grant application in the FY 2018 round, and did not re-submit for the most recent brownfield competition. However, the county remains interested in pursuing Brownfields funding in the future, and has requested this meeting to learn more about the program and, ideally, how to fine-tune its next grant application. *(Contacts: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon and Andrew Hanson)*

Meeting with San Diego (CA) Supervisor Greg Cox

On Wednesday, March 6, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler will meet with San Diego County Supervisor and outgoing NACo President Greg Cox (R-CA) to discuss possible paths forward to address long-term environmental and public health problems posed by decades of cross-boundary sewage, sediment and trash that flow into San Diego County's coastal waterways. The problem stems from inadequate infrastructure and an exploding population in Tijuana, Mexico, which threaten the health of U.S citizens, harm important estuarine land and force closure of beaches. Further, these spills also hinder U.S. Navy training and compromise U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations. *(Contact: Britt Carter, Andrew Hanson)*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The **LGAC Spring meeting** will be held **May 2nd-3rd** at EPA's East Building 1153 Hearing room. A New Members Orientation session will be held for new and returning Members. The public meeting will feature Senior EPA officials and a panel of Assistant Administrators from the EPA Program offices. Also, there will be an Intergovernmental Forum with guest speakers of national intergovernmental organizations for a featured discussion on risk communication and local governments. *(Contact: Fran Eargle)*

LGAC 2019 Membership Solicitation -OCIR is soliciting nominations for its Local Government Advisory Committee which provides critical advice on the development and implementation of Agency programs at the local level. The Committee currently is chartered for 30 members. We are looking to appoint or reappoint approximately **10-12 LGAC Members** in 2019. As part of our recruitment strategy OCIR will soon send out an email to EPA Regional Administrators and Assistant Administrator's requesting that they submit their **top 2-3 nominees** for consideration in the selection process. In addition to selecting members, we are developing a

robust list of alternates. Those recommended and not selected in this round may still be a valuable resource to the LGAC for assignment to various Workgroups.

EPA considers candidates from local, state, and tribal government elected and appointed officials who advise the EPA Administrator “from the field” on a broad range of environmental issues impacting local governments. Current LGAC committee members, and future qualified nominees, hold either elected or non-elected/appointed positions and possess leadership experience- whether managerial or technical/programmatic -in the following contexts: Small community or township government (under 10,000 population); county government; moderate-size or large city government; state government; and tribal government. (See Federal Register Notice <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-21/html/2019-03000.htm>)

Nominees must be willing and able to attend **2-3** meetings a year and fully participate in the Subcommittee or workgroup activities (usually via teleconference). The LGAC has one standing subcommittee which is the Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS), focused on communities under 10,000. For more information, go to: http://www.epa.gov/ocirpage/scas_lgac/lgac_index.htm. (Contact: Fran Eargle)

LGAC Water Workgroup will meet on **Monday, March 4th, 3:30-4:30 ET**. The Water Workgroup will begin work on their Waters of the U.S. charge. The Workgroup will also have an update on the PFAS Management Plan, and review the status on their work on harmful algal blooms. (Contact: Fran Eargle)

The LGAC’s **Revitalizing Communities Workgroup** will hold a call on **Tues., March 5, from 11:00 am- 12:00 pm**, during which EPA Office of Policy staff will provide a demonstration of the Adaptation Resource Center (ARC-X) online system to inform the Workgroup about what information is available and how this information can help communities adapt to changing conditions. The Office of Land and Emergency Management will provide updates on the Superfund Taskforce Charge. This call will also be a good opportunity for Britt Carter to introduce herself to Workgroup members. Talking points are being developed for Britt’s use on the call. (Contact: Cristina Mercurio)

OCIR **reached out to the Rural Assembly** to learn more about the organization and discuss their interest in assisting with outreach to rural stakeholders in relation to **EPA’s search for new members to serve on the LGAC/SCAS**. The Rural Assembly is a network for rural leaders and their allies to unite in a common cause, advocating for common-sense policies that improve the outlook and results for rural places, people, cultures, and economies. Participants include individuals and organizations at the local, regional, and national level based in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It was agreed that the Rural Assembly will share information about the LGAC/SCAS membership search in its next newsletter and will also consider providing recommendations for select local government officials in their membership application. (Contact: Cristina Mercurio)

The LGAC/Revitalizing Communities Workgroup will hold a video conference during the week of March 4, 2019, during which EPA will provide a demonstration on the Adaption Resource Center (ARC-X) and an update on Superfund issues relative to the Workgroup’s Superfund Charge. (Contact: Cristina Mercurio)

RECAP

Western Governors Association Breakfast

On February 24, for the seventh year in a row, EPA hosted the annual breakfast meeting of the Western Governors’ Association, in conjunction with the National Governors’ Association Winter Meeting (Feb. 22 –

25). The Western Governors' Association is an independent, non-partisan organization of governors from 19 Western states, two Pacific flag territories, and one commonwealth. Acting Administrator Wheeler, Acting Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt, and Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta, along with 14 Governors, participated in a roundtable discussion of issues important to Western states. *(Contact: Becky Cook-Shyovitz)*

EPA Meeting with Fort Wayne, IN Utilities

On Monday, Feb. 25, officials from Fort Wayne (IN) Utilities, led by Justin Brugger, CEO, met with EPA to discuss the Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) and implementation of the City's Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP). The representatives have met in the past with EPA to share concerns with past Agency policies governing how water quality revisions made on the basis of the attainability analyses are integrated with enforcement of combined sewer overflow (CSO) LTCPs. They have expressed interest in the use of the UAA as a basis for seeking a variance to the City's CSO LTCP. Staff from the Office of Water, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and Region V joined the Office of Intergovernmental Relations for the meeting. Mr. Brugger provided updates on efforts to date to meet milestone and spending requirements as he and his team have shaped the UAA. They are slated to submit the UAA to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for approval next month. From there, the UAA will go to Region V for approval or denial. Mr. Brugger expressed great appreciation for EPA's guidance throughout the process. EPA applauded the progress to date on the Utilities' efforts, and its preparation for presentation to the State. The dialogue provided an opportunity for EPA staff to share additional feedback and reaction to the plans that Chairman Justin Brugger laid out during the meeting. The Chairman and his team characterized the meeting as very productive, and they look forward to continuing to work with EPA on what they hope will be a successful model. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with Brownsville Public Utilities Board

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, staff from the Office of Water, and Region VI joined the Office of Intergovernmental Relations for a meeting with Brownsville (TX) Public Utilities Board officials. The Board officials provided updates on the Resacas ("Waterways") Restoration work. They also stressed their appreciation for EPA's continuing support and partnership. The BPUB has used several of the Agency's grants (including those from the Wetland and Gulf of Mexico Programs) to assist the project. They also continue to seek support from BuRec and the Corps, and the Corps has provided substantial funding support over the years. The officials outlined the successes of the related projects to date and discussed a watershed study. Some of the Resacas Restoration project's benefits were highlighted, including: Increasing stormwater capacity; increasing raw water storage capacity; improving water quality; habitat restoration; recreation/ecotourism; economic development; improved aesthetics; and, bank stabilization/erosion control. General Manager John Bruciak led the delegation, and as always, they appreciated the dialogue with EPA staff and guidance on exploring the Section 319 program, continuing its work with the Texas Water Development Board to secure Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF funding, and examining any potential for WIFIA support for a related Desalination project. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with Allegheny County (PA) Sanitary Authority (Cancelled)

Representatives of the Authority (ALCOSAN) were scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 27 with EPA Headquarters and Regional staff to discuss their ongoing efforts to address combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Allegheny County. They also wanted to highlight their award-winning efforts to promote the use of green infrastructure to reduce stormwater flows into its combined system. The meeting was cancelled per the Authority's request. *(Contacts: Andrew Hanson and M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*

EPA Meeting with West Valley Water District (Rialto, CA)

On Thursday, February 28, the Office of Water, Environmental Justice staff, and Region IX joined OIR for a meeting with new WVWD General Manager Clarence Mansell, and Mike Taylor, President, Board of Directors. The West Valley Water District is a special district that provides water service to approximately 80,000 people spanning both San Bernardino County and Riverside County in Southern California. In a 31 square-mile area, WVWD serves portions of the communities of Bloomington, Colton, Fontana, Rialto, San Bernardino and Jurupa Valley. A majority of the WVWD service area is considered a disadvantaged community. Per the District's interests, discussion focused on partnerships with EPA to address water quality challenges, including wellhead treatment for arsenic, perchlorate, and nitrates. West Valley Water District is looking for grant funds to help install wellhead treatments for these contaminants as well as funding to expand bioremediation facilities (Fluidized and Fixed Bed Reactors) that treat perchlorate. Perchlorate, the culprit of water contamination discovered in the Rialto-Colton groundwater basin in 1997, was a remnant of prior agricultural, industrial, and military activity in the area.

There was also interest in the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. WVWD is looking to expand its current Turf Replacement/Irrigation Program for its disadvantaged community in its Bloomington service area. WVWD was awarded a BoR WaterSMART grant to expand its pilot water use efficiency Turf Replacement Program (TRP) for its disadvantaged communities. The District is targeting up to 65 service connections and 120,000 square feet of turf removal. District officials appreciated the dialogue, guidance, and information on potential resources to support their efforts, primarily through the Drinking Water SRF. *(Contact: M. Arnita Hannon Christmon)*